THE KALEIDOSCOPE;

OR,

Literary and Scientific Mirror.

"UTILE DULCI."

This familiar Miscellany, from which all religious and political matters are excluded, contains a variety of original and selected Articles; comprehending LITERATURE, CRITICISM, MEN and MANNERS, AMUSEMENT, elegant EXTRACTS, POETRY, ANECDOTES, BIOGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY, the DRAMA, ARTS and SCIENCES, WIT and SATIRE, FASHIONS, NATURAL HISTORY, &c. forming a handsome ANNUAL VOLUME, with an INDEX and TITLE-PAGE. *Its circulation renders it a most eligible medium for Advertisements.*

No 333.—Vol. VII. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1826. PRICE 3½d.

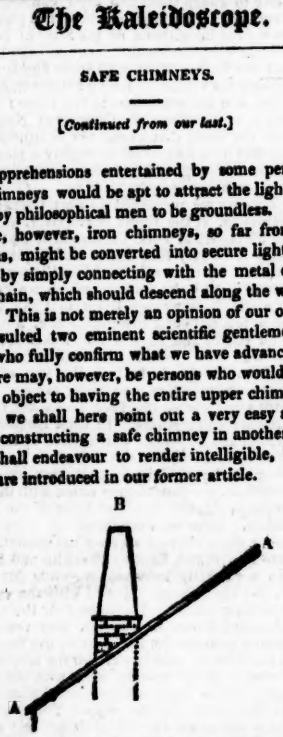
The Kaleidoscope.

SAFE CHIMNEYS.

[*Continued from our last.*]

The apprehensions entertained by some persons that metal chimneys would be apt to attract the lightning, are deemed by philosophical men to be groundless. If it were otherwise, however, iron chimneys, so far from proving dangerous, might be converted into secure lightning conductors, by simply connecting with the metal chimney a wire or chain, which should descend along the wall to the ground. This is not merely an opinion of our own, as we have consulted two eminent scientific gentlemen on the subject, who fully confirm what we have advanced.

As there may, however, be persons who would, on some accounts, object to having the entire upper chimney made of metal, we shall here point out a very easy and cheap mode of constructing a safe chimney in another manner. This we shall endeavour to render intelligible, by means of the figure introduced in our former article.



AA represents part of the sloping roof of the gable end of the house; the brick part of the chimney being only raised a few courses of brick to bring it square. B, as before described, is an iron chimney or tube passing into the orifice of the brick chimney below the roof, and thereby rendered so firm as to resist any force of the wind. Instead of carrying this iron part to the full required height of the chimney, let it be raised only a little above the brick-work, (say one or two feet,) in order to obtain a firm base upon which to place the superstructure. This might consist of an earthenware or Roman cement top, passing down over the upper rim of the iron flue as far as would be necessary to keep it firm in its perpendicular position. It must be obvious, that however high these earthenware or Roman cement tops were carried, they would form along with the iron base, from the top part of B to the lower part of the dotted lines, one continued piece; nor could they be overthrown, without tearing up the part which is inserted into the chimney below the roof.

In conclusion, we shall take it as a particular favour if any of our readers, who may make trial of a chimney constructed after either of the methods we have recommended, will communicate to us the result of the experiment, not for our satisfaction, as we require no proof of the utility of the plan, but as an encouragement to others, who may be less confident on the subject than we are. ☞

Antiquities.

ANCIENT SHIPS OF WAR.

An Essay on the War Galleys of the Ancients. By John Howell. Edinburgh: W. Blackwood, 1826; pp. 61.

[FROM THE SCOTSMAN.]

Mr. Howell is rather a rough writer, and not a very clear thinker. We are, besides, not sure if his scholarship in treating a subject like this is to be relied on, or if his reading is quite so extensive as it requires; but with all his disadvantages, we are pretty well convinced, that he has made an important step in a very difficult investigation, and thrown much light on a question which has baffled the ingenuity of many men of learning and talent. As the subject is extremely curious, we shall take this opportunity, with the aid of the new lights Mr. Howell has furnished, to give our unlearned readers an idea of the form and use of the war galleys of the ancients; premising that we do not pretend to have studied the subject very profoundly. We could refer to many volumes of controversy on the ships of the ancients, but we should be puzzled to name an accessible book which would afford, within a small compass, a distinct idea of their construction.

The trading vessels of the ancients were chiefly worked by sails; their war vessels by oars. Hence a strong corps of rowers was a most important part of the crew of every ship of the latter description. The very ancient war vessels were galleys, decked at the two ends, and open in the middle, with one rank or row of oars on each side. The smallest vessels in Agamemnon's fleet, which carried fifty men, were seven feet wide, as we learn from Homer (Iliad, b. xv. p. 729.) As the science of war was improved, and when the mode was introduced of making ships shatter and run down each other by concussions with the beak or rostrum, greater speed of movement and power of impulse became requisite. The first method taken to attain these, was probably to lengthen the ship, and increase the number of oars; the next, to put two or three rowers upon each oar instead of one. When both these methods were exhausted, and more mechanical power was still desired, the next expedient was, to have two, three, or four rows of oars instead of one; and the ships built in this manner were called Biremes, Triremes, Quadriremes. The number of these rows or *banks* of oars was afterwards increased to eight, ten, or fifteen. Hiero, of Syracuse, built a galley of twenty banks of oars, and Ptolemy Philopater one of forty. This magnificent vessel was about as wide as a British first-rate, and twice as long; for her length, according to Athenæus, was 420 feet, (280 cubits,) and her breadth 57 feet; she was navigated by 4000 rowers, and carried, besides, 3000 soldiers.

Antiquarians have found it difficult to explain in what manner these banks of oars were arranged. The most obvious notion is, that the second bank of oars was placed over the first, on a second floor or gallery, the third over the second, and so on. But as less than five feet cannot be allowed between each floor, it follows that the upmost rowers in a ship of ten banks of oars would be placed fifty feet above the water, a position in which no oar could be used. Others have supposed that the various *banks* were only parts or sections of one long horizontal line of oars passing from stem to stern; but this idea has few or no supporters. A third opinion is, that the oars were not ranged horizontally, but in oblique lines, and that the number of banks meant the number of oars in one of these lines. Thus, in fig. 1, below, the five dots in the oblique lines *a b* are five oar-ports, and indicate that the galley was a *quinquereme*, or of five banks of oars. Though there may have been four, six, or ten, of such oblique lines of oars, the galley was still a quinquereme if there were five oars in a line. But this and all the other hypotheses have been found to involve such insurmountable difficulties, that the learned had almost abandoned the subject in despair, when some good divinity prompted Mr. Howell to apply his powers to the task.

We agree with our author, that after Vossius, Le Roy, and General Melville, had discovered that so much space was gained by placing the rowers in oblique lines, it is marvellous that they never stumbled on the supposition, that *these oblique lines might be the banks of oars.* This is Mr. Howell's hypothesis, which really appears to afford a satisfactory explanation of the most material facts recorded, and to leave no considerable difficulty unresolved. Thus the galley in fig. 1 would not be a quinquereme, from having five oars in a line, but a bireme, from having two lines of oars on each side; were a third line or bank added, she would be a trireme; a fourth would make her a quadrireme, and so on. He thinks the number of oars in a bank was regularly five, because he infers from historical as well as mechanical evidence that the greatest height above the water which an oar of any manageable length could be worked, is nine feet, and this admits of five oars in the oblique line, so placed, that the handle of each rower's oar may pass over the head of the rower before him. The proofs are not given, but the fact may be allowed to pass on the authority of Vossius and Mr. Howell. The point once determined becomes a fixed element in the question; for since we cannot raise the oars higher, if we wish to increase their number, we must just make the ship longer, and add to the number of banks. Ptolemy's immense ship of forty banks, which has been a stumbling-block to all preceding writers, presents not the least difficulty when Mr. Howell's theory is applied to her construction. We shall now explain the names and uses of the principal parts of an ancient galley. The figures will assist us.

Fig. 1.

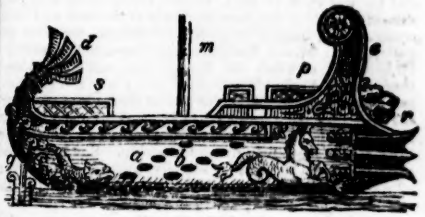


Fig. 2.

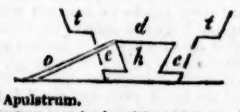


Fig. 1, *d* Apulstrum.

r Is the Rostrum or beak with which the galleys endeavoured to pierce or sink one another; it was generally triple-headed. The war galley employed in this way might be considered as a marine battering-ram.

c The Corymbus or crown, an ornamental part; there is another at the stern.

p The prow (prora) with which the poop (puppis) *s* was raised considerably above the waist of the ship, that the soldiers stationed there might throw their darts and javelins with better effect.

m Is the mast, (the lower part only,) for the war galley had a mast and sails, though in time of action she was worked by oars.

a b Are the banks of oars in the waist of the ship, which did not, however, reach so near either to the gunnel above, or to the surface of the water below, as appears in the figure.

g Is the helm, (gubernaculum,) shaped like an oar, and projecting from the stern.

Fig. 2 is a cross section of the galley at the waist, showing the oars on one side.

d The deck, which occupied only about one-third of the breadth of the vessel.

e e The gallery open above, where the sloping banks of the rowers were placed; they sat in rows, on seats resembling the steps of a chair, each seat being probably about twelve inches higher than the one before it, and eighteen inches broad;* the oblique line *o* represents the highest oar of one bank, (it being impossible to put in all the five in so small a figure;) the oar ports of the highest and lowest oars are about five or six feet of vertical distance asunder, the lowest being about three feet above the water, and the highest nine feet; the highest oar was about fifty feet long, and the lowest considerably shorter; about one-third of the length of the oar was within the ship, and this part was often loaded with lead to make it balance the part without; five, six, and sometimes as many as ten, rowers pulled at each oar.

t is the Catastroma, or narrow gangway on which the soldiers stood along the two sides of the waist of the ship.

h, A covered gallery, extending along the middle of the ship from the prow to the poop, may be considered as the hold. It separated the benches of the rowers on the one side from those on the other, and its top, which formed the deck, probably communicated by small transverse gangways with the Catastroma.

It is stated by ancient writers that a Greek Trireme had a crew of 150 rowers, and forty heavy armed soldiers. Now a Trireme having three banks on each side, with five oars in each, would have thirty oars, and reckoning five men to each oar, we find the crew should be 150, as stated. No oars were placed in the prow or the poop, that the vessels might have the power to manœuvre, cross or close with one another. Mr. Howell thinks the horizontal distance between one bank and another would be seven feet, so that a ship could have as many banks of oars as she had spaces of seven feet in the length of her waist, *minus* one. Thus fifteen oars could be placed in twenty-eight feet of length of the ship's side, whereas sixty feet would have been required had they been all placed in one line. He thinks the highest oar in one bank was placed perpendicularly over the lowest oar in the bank next to it.

The description we have given applies to ships of a large size, but many of the smaller rates had no gallery in the middle, (*h* fig. 2,) the seats of the rowers occupying the whole breadth. Ultimately it was found that the large ships sank so deep in the water, that much power was wasted in moving them, and that smaller vessels with towers erected at the prow and stern were more useful. These latter were called *Liburnæ*, from the Liburni, a people in Dalmatia, who introduced them, and were much used by the Romans after the battle of Actium. They had but one bank of oars, ranged horizontally along the side of the ship, and very probably their form and construction has been transmitted to modern times in the galleys used by the Venetians, Genoese, and French, a century ago, of which Mr. Howell has given a description from an old book. The French galley was 150 feet long and fifty broad. Her deck was almost level with the water; she had fifty oars, twenty-five on a side; each oar was fifty feet long, and was pulled by six rowers, about one-third of its length being within the ship. She had a narrow gangway at the side for soldiers, (like *t*,) and a covered gallery in the middle, called the Coursier, (exactly like *h*,) reaching from the prow to the poop.

Before taking leave of Mr. Howell, we must state that we differ from him in several points. 1. He thinks that in Homer the *ikria* (decks or hatches) were merely the rowers' seats; but if he will consult the Iliad, xv. v. 729, he will find that Ajax, when hard pressed by the enemy, retreated from the *ikria* or deck at the poop, to a *thranos* or rower's seat in the waist of the ship. There is no doubt, therefore, that the Greek ships had small decks at the two ends, which, as they probably opened upwards, might be called hatches. 2. We are satisfied that when Virgil speaks of three ranks of oars, worked by three rows of Trojan youths, he means simply that the ship was a Trireme. Though such ships were not then invented, this could not prevent the poet from giving his hero vessels of a respectable class. He has been guilty of the same sort of anachronism, in beating down Priam's palace with the battering-ram, which was then unknown, (Æn. 2. v. 492.)

* As the oar is worked in a sloping position, each *form* or seat must have risen from the side of the ship towards the middle. Thus, if there were six men at one oar, the inmost of the six must have sat from one to two feet higher than the outmost. The seats sloped, therefore, in two directions. Each form, which held the rowers for one oar, would have six seats, each two, three, or four inches higher than the one next it; and the bank consisted of five *forms*, (thirty seats,) each form rising twelve inches above, and receding eighteen inches behind the one that preceded it.

3. Mr. Howell is wrong in thinking that the long oar, because it was balanced on the fulcrum, would be as easily worked as the short one, and for this reason we are satisfied that more men would be employed at the one than the other. 4. We doubt whether a difference of height of one foot between seat and seat, would enable the rower behind to keep his oar clear of the head of the rower before.

In modern times the steam-engine furnishes a power which acts independently of the elements; and is in its application perfectly analogous to that of the oar. With the power of impulse steam affords, and which can be used at pleasure in any direction, there is no doubt that a steam-frigate, built strong in the bows, by choosing her point of attack in a calm, might make a breach in the side of a seventy-four which would sink her in a few minutes. When ships of war, using sails, come to be matched against steam-ships, we should not be surprised to see this mode of attack resorted to, and the *rostrum* become once more an offensive weapon in naval battles.

Before closing our remarks, we ought to add, that the book is neatly got up, and is illustrated by ten pretty good lithographic plates.

The Traveller.

THE ARCTIC LAND EXPEDITION.

The following interesting selections from the journal of a scientific gentleman, attached to this expedition, is taken from the *Dumfries Courier*, the editor of which journal has abridged it from the *Dumfries Magazine*:—

Fort Franklin, Great Bear Lake, Feb. 6, 1826.

At New York we were received with much hospitality, and I may say kindness, by the upper class of citizens. We spent a week very agreeably with them, after which, we left New York in a steam-boat, and proceeded up the river Hudson to Albany, landing by the way at West Point, to visit the Military Academy established there on a large scale. West Point is associated with unpleasant recollections to an Englishman, as being the position of the American army when the unfortunate but gallant Major Andre was taken in carrying on his negociations with General Arnold. The Hudson is a magnificent river, and much of its scenery possesses a grand, nay almost an alpine character. Albany, the seat of the government of the state of New York, is a comparatively ancient, quiet, and well-built town, not disturbed by the commerce which bustles through the streets of New York. We were entertained by the Governor of the State, General De Witt Clinton, a polished gentleman of great scientific attainments, and by Van Rauselaer, the proprietor of a county which bears his name, and in fact a nobleman, under the appellation of patron (pronounced *patroon*) which is, I suppose, the Republican equivalent for Duke. We also made here the acquaintance of Mr. Celden, a liberal leader of the federal party. We accompanied the Governor to church, and the clergyman, a Presbyterian, prayed in express terms for the safety and success of the expedition.

At Albany we hired three coaches, with four horses each, to convey us to Lewistown, a distance of about 420 miles. Our party at this time consisted of five officers, four marines, and Mr. Buchanan, the British Consul, who came with us from New York, and accompanied us during our journey through the United States and Upper Canada, facilitating our progress greatly by his intimate knowledge of the route, the modes of travelling, and the manners of the inhabitants. After we had struck off, however, from the great western road to Buffaloe, in order to go to Lewistown on the Niagara, we found, as might be expected from the smaller thoroughfare, less accommodation for so large a party. We arrived at one of the smaller inns about midnight, after the family had retired to bed, found the door on the latch, and walked in, but experienced some difficulty, as it was a frosty night, in getting the family to quit their warm beds, and provide us with supper. Mr. Buchanan, however, hit upon an expedient which answered admirably. He sent our highland piper into the long passage leading to the bed-rooms, and he had not marched twice along it to the tune of *The Gathering of the Clans*, before the landlord, his wife, and five or six female attendants, hurried forth. They took all this in good part, said it was delightful music, cooked some ham for our supper with their usual expedition, and spread clean sheets on the beds which they had left, and which, on our entering them, we found still warm.

From Lewistown we crossed the Niagara to Queenstown on the Canada side, and went about seven miles up the river to visit the justly celebrated Falls. Many have endeavoured to describe these Falls, and I think with very little success. I shall not make a new attempt, but merely remark, that, notwithstanding all I had read on the subject, and the various drawings I had seen, the grandeur of the scene far exceeded my previous conceptions of it. All the other cataracts which I have seen, dwindle, on comparison with this, into insignificance. It is a stupendous monument of the power of the Creator of the universe, who wields at will an element that mocks the utmost strength of feeble man. Place Xerxes and his Satraps and chains, or the mightiest potentate at the head of the most magnificent army that ever trode the earth, within the current of that powerful stream, and a single minute would suffice to sweep them and their cumbrous train to utter destruction. This neighbourhood is a place of summer resort for the inhabitants of the State of New York, and a hotel for their accommodation has been built so as to overlook the Falls. This, with some flights of wooden stairs to enable the visitors to ascend and descend the banks of the river, are no ornaments to the scene; neither do they injure it, and perhaps the Cataract of Niagara is the only one in the world that would not be injured by such adjuncts. But it is framed on so mighty a plan, that the eye, on contemplating its tremendous rush of waters, lets slip from observation every work of art.

From Niagara we proceeded to Fort George, situated on Lake Ontario, at the influx of the river, and crossing the Lake, we landed at York, the capital of Upper Canada. After a stay of twenty-four hours at this place, we proceeded in carts, by miserable roads, and through a thinly settled country, to Lake Senicoe, which we crossed, and descending the Nattawasaga River to Lake Huron, we arrived in a few days at Penetanquishene, a naval depot, situated on one of the bays of that Lake. At Penetanquishene we were joined by twenty-four Canadian voyagers from Montreal, and on the 23d of April the whole party embarked in two large canoes, which, together with some stores, had been forwarded from Lower Canada the preceding season. In these canoes we coasted Lakes Huron and Superior, and arrived at Fort William on the 10th of May, having suffered a few days' detention, partly from ice, but principally from high winds.

Fort William, previous to their union with the Hudson's Bay Company, was the principal depot of the North-west Fur Traders. Here we exchanged our large canoes for four smaller ones, adapted to river navigation, and, separating into two parties, Captain Franklin and I pushed on a-head in a partially laden canoe, while Messrs. Back, Kendall, and Drummond followed with the stores in the three remaining canoes. We arrived on the 15th of June at Cumberland-house, which, you may remember, was our wintering quarters the first year on our former journey through the country, and it was also the residence, during the last winter, of our seamen, who, with three boats and some stores under their charge, left England in June 1824, in the Hudson's Bay ship. They resumed their voyage this season on the 2d of June, and we overtook them on the 29th of the same month, in sufficient time to assist them in reaching and crossing the height of land which separates the waters flowing towards Hudson's Bay from those which fall into the Arctic Sea. Owing to the unusual dryness of the season, we experienced much difficulty in launching the boats through the small streams leading to and from this portage, which is named the Methy Carrying-place, and particularly through the small Methy river, which is nearly thirty miles long, and which, this season, nowhere offered water sufficient to float the boats, except in small pools, between which long and almost dry fords intervened. We had, in consequence, to carry the cargoes nearly the whole way, either partially or entirely, through swamps, from which the mosquitoes assailed us in myriads at every step. The carrying-place itself is twelve miles long, over a high ridge of sand hills, and here the boats were partly carried on men's shoulders, and partly launched the whole distance. After this tedious and laborious operation, during which a considerable number of the men were disabled by swellings of the legs, we descended the Athabasca River, and reached Fort Chepewyan, on the Lake of the Hills, on the 15th of July. By referring to Mackenzie's voyages, you will perceive that it was from this post that that enterprising traveller set out on the 3d of June, 1789, on that memorable voyage to the Arctic Sea, in which he discovered and navigated the river that bears his name, and opened up to the fur trade a large tract of productive country.

It was necessary for Captain Franklin to remain at Fort Chepewyan until the arrival of Mr. Back, that he might discharge such of the Canadian voyagers as were to return to Canada this season, and also to make other arrange-

ments; but that the boats (which were now four in number, an additional one having been borrowed from the Company, and heavily laden with upwards of two tons of pemmican, besides other stores) might be no cause of delay after the arrival of the canoes, I went on with them on the 21st.

The canoes, under Messrs. Back and Kendall, (Drummond having been left at Cumberland-house to botanize on the Saskatchewan,) arrived at Chepewyan on the 23d, and on the 26th, Captain Franklin, having sent back to Canada a canoe with the voyagers whose services were no longer needed, set out after me with the three remaining canoes. The boats reached Slave Lake on the 26th July, only two days later than we arrived at the same place in canoes on the second year of our former journey; a difference of speed attributable solely to our acquaintance with the route and mode of travelling, and the previous arrangements so carefully made by Captain Franklin. After passing two days under the hospitable roof of Mr. M'Vicar, who was so kind to us after our former sufferings, I set out again, and coasting the southern ocean of Great Slave Lake, entered the Mackenzie. The current of this stately river swept us rapidly along, and on the 3d of August we arrived at Fort Simpson, situated at the influx of the River of the Mountains, and at seven in the morning of the 6th we landed at Fort Norman, about two hundred miles farther down that river. These two posts are distant from each other thirteen days of winter travelling. At Fort Norman I left a portion of the stores, and a boat and select crew for Captain Franklin; and going on with the remainder, we ascended the current of the Bear Lake River, which joins the Mackenzie about thirty miles below Fort Norman. Bear Lake River has a rapid current, the voyage down it being performed in eight or nine hours, while its ascent occupies three or four days. It is 76 miles long. We arrived at Fort Franklin, then in progress of erection, on the 16th of August. Mr. Dease, a chief trader of the Hudson Bay Company, who had come down with a party of men in the month of June to make preparations for us, did not expect to see us before the 25th of September. Captain Franklin and his party reached Fort Norman the day after I left it, and sending Mr. Back up with the canoes and stores, he and Mr. Kendall proceeded down the river in the boat, with a crew of 7 men, including the Esquimaux interpreter. On the third day they passed Fort Good Hope, in lat. 67 28, the last of the Company's posts, and in three days more reached the sea. The river flowed into it through many channels, separated by low deltas, which are mostly covered by spring floods. While Island of Mackenzie, the limit of his voyage, is one of the outermost of these deltas, but it is surrounded by the fresh water of the river, and it was not until the boat had approached Garry's Island, thirty miles to seaward, that the clear salt water was perceived, by a well defined line, to be separated from the muddy water of the river. Captain Franklin landed on Garry's Island, exactly six months from the date of his sailing from England, and it will excite the sympathy of his friends to learn, that he then displayed for the first time a silk flag, which was sewed by his lamented wife in her last illness, and delivered with a presentiment, alas! too true, that they were never again to meet in this world.

Garry's Island lies in lat. 69 29, and in lon. 135 41, W. From its summit they saw many white and black whales, seals, &c. After remaining a day here, for the purpose of making astronomical observations, and enjoying the contemplation of a sea clear of ice, they set out on their return, and arrived at this post on the 6th of Sept. We had, during their absence, bestowed upon it the name which it now bears. They saw several Esquimaux encampments recently deserted, but were not so fortunate as to find any of the people of that nation. Presents, however, of iron-work were left at their huts, and we have had the satisfaction of learning, in the course of this winter, through the medium of the Sharp Eyes (a tribe of Indians who frequent Fort Good Hope) that these presents were found by the people for whom they were intended, and have prepossessed them strongly in our favour. The expedition travelled, from the date of its leaving New York, the 26th March, until its reunion at Fort Franklin on the 6th of September; and, including a survey which I made of the north side of Bear Lake, in Captain Franklin's absence, five thousand one hundred and sixty miles, of which five hundred and ninety-six were through the United States and settled parts of Upper Canada. It will resume its labours as soon as the rivers are clear of ice, which will not be before the end of June. At present the whole party are in good health and high spirits, and are sanguine in their expectations of success.

No letters from this post, later than the date of this, can reach England sooner than October, 1827.

Miscellanies.

CAMIOLA TURINGA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The magnanimity of a lady of Messina, called Camiola Turinga, who flourished in the childhood of Joanna, has procured her a place amongst "the illustrious women" of Boccacio; and though he has recorded no daring deed of heroism, her history would have furnished an affecting tale to his Decameron, had he contrasted her lofty spirit, not less feminine, though more noble, with the passive meekness of his favourite Griselda. Towards the close of the reign of King Robert, Orlando of Arragon, rashly encountering the Neapolitan fleet, was made captive, and imprisoned in one of the castles of Naples. His brother Peter, King of Sicily, refused to ransom him, as he had occasioned the loss of the Sicilian armament, by his temerity in engaging the Neapolitans, contrary to his express commands.

The young and handsome prince, unfriended and almost forgotten, remained long in prison, and would have been doomed for life to pine away in hopeless captivity, had not his wretched fate excited the pity of Camiola Turinga, a wealthy lady of Messina, distinguished for every feminine grace and virtue. Desirous of procuring his liberty without compromising her fair fame, and perhaps actuated by sentiments still more powerful than compassion, she sent a trusty messenger to his dungeon at Naples, to offer to pay his ransom on condition of his marrying her on his return to Messina. Orlando, overjoyed at his unexpected good fortune, willingly sent her a contract of marriage; but she had no sooner purchased his liberty than he denied all knowledge of her, and treated her with scorn. The slighted maiden carried her cause before the royal tribunal; and Peter of Arragon, convinced of the necessity of governing the Sicilians with justice, as his empire depended solely on the affections of the people, adjudged Orlando to Camiola, as he was, in fact, according to the custom of the times and the laws of war, a slave, whom she had purchased with her treasure. In consequence of this decree, a day was appointed for their marriage; and Orlando, accompanied by a splendid retinue, repaired to the house of Camiola, whom he found decked out in the customary magnificence of silks and jewels. But Camiola, instead of proffering the vows of love and obedience, which the haughty prince expected to hear, told him she scorned to degrade herself by an union with one who had debased his royal birth and his knighthood by so foul a breach of faith, and that she could now only bestow on him, not her hand, of which he had proved himself unworthy, but the ransom she had paid, which she esteemed a gift worthy a man of mean and sordid soul: herself and her remaining riches she vowed to dedicate to Heaven.—No entreaties availed to change her resolution; and Orlando, shunned by his peers as a dishonoured man, too late regretted the bride he had lost, and falling into a profound melancholy, died in obscurity and neglect.—*Life of Joanna, Queen of Naples*, vol. 2, p. 149.

An Irish Cabin.—To those who have never seen Ireland, it may be necessary to describe the cabin of the poor Irishman. It is the most miserable looking hovel that can well be imagined. You may pass along a road one day, and return on the second day and find one reared with all the facility of Jonah's gourd. Mud, kneaded with straw, is the material of the wall, and usually five, six, or seven feet high; only one room and one door, which discharges the double debt of a window and an outlet for the smoke, which however they seem to prefer to keep in, as a means of heating the ragged inmates of the raw dwelling—for the chimney and window of even stone-built cottages erected by landlords, seem often to be stopped up with no other conceivable purpose. The eyes of the inmates are generally bleared by this smoke; and the complexion of the woman has often a near resemblance to a smoked ham. The roof is usually of sticks, covered with a mixture of straw, potato stalks, ferns, or sods of turf, and with weeds springing up on the top, often give it the appearance of a weedy dunghill, lying in a ditch, which is the common position of such hovels. The furniture corresponds to the architecture: a pot for boiling potatoes, perhaps a bit of a table, and one or two broken stools: beds are seldom found, the family lying on straw, fern, or turf, and which is often shared with the pig, where such a luxury exists; as a great refinement, in some cases, a little dirty mud hole is erected, or a hollow built in the peat stack for the *separation* of the pig *a mensa et thoro*, where the parties are fashionable enough to have an idea of such a separate maintenance.—Such a cottage, and a potato garden of an Irish acre, was let to be paid in labour, in 1778, according to A. Young, at £3 5s., and in 1818 at £10.,—while the wages are 7d. to 10d. a day, and the rent taken up in labour, so estimated. To superficial observers it has afforded a subject of idle wonder how a people living in such misery have increased in number with a rapidity unexampled in any other old country."—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

Highlanders.—We lately fell in with a rare old book, which has the following passage, copied from the Vienna Gazette of 25th October, 1761. It is curious as showing the impression which the first appearance of Highland soldiers, on the Continent, in the costume of their country, made upon the minds of the natives. The opinion then formed of them, so far as it is erroneous, is rather laughable; but, upon the whole, it speaks volumes in praise of their soldier-like and general good conduct:—"A few days ago passed through Minden the Scots Highlanders; a people totally different in their dress, language, manners, and tempers, from the other inhabitants of Britain. They are caught in the mountains when young; and still run with a surprising degree of swiftness. As they are strangers to fear, they make very good soldiers when disciplined. The men are of low stature, and most of them old or very young. They discover an extraordinary submission to, and affection for their officers, who are all young and handsome. From the goodness of their disposition in every thing, (for the boors are much better treated by those half-savages, than by the polished and civilized French and English,) from the goodness of their disposition, I say, which, by the bye, shows the rectitude of human nature before it is vitiated by example or prejudice, it is to be hoped, that their king's laudable, though late endeavours to civilize and instruct them in the principles of Christianity, will meet with success. A Frenchman seems to be their natural antipathy; they could not look on any of our prisoners here directly, but side-wise, and even that with the strongest expression of indignation and aversion. The French held them at first in great contempt; but they have met with them so often of late, that they firmly believe that there are 12 battalions of them in our army. Marshal Broglio himself has often said, that he once wished he was a man six feet high, but that now he is perfectly reconciled to his size, since he has seen the wonders performed by those little men."

The Etrick Shepherd in the Shower-bath.—I hae never yet had courage to pu' the string. In I gang and shut the door on mysel—and tak haud o' the string very gently, for the least rug 'll bring down the squash like the Falls o' the Clyde; and I look up to the machine, a' pierced wi' so many water-holes, and then I shut my een and my mouth like grim death, and then let gae the string, and, gruin a' the time, try to whistle; and then I agree to allow myself a respite till I count fifty; and neist begin to argue wi' my ain conscience, that the promise I had made to myself to whumle the splash-cask was only between it and me, and that the warld will ken naething about the matter if I come out again *re infecta*; and, feenally, I step out as cautiously as a thief frae a closet, and set myself down in the arm-chair, beside the towel warming at the fire, and tak up the Magazine, and peruse, perhaps, ane o' the Noctes Ambrosiane, till I'm like to split wi' lauchin at my ain wut, forgettin' a' the time that the door's no locked, and what a figure I wud present to ony o' the servant lasses that micht happen to come in lookin' for naething, or to some collegian or contributor, come out frae Embro, during the vacance, to see the Etrick Shepherd.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

White Elephants are rare in nature, and so greatly valued in India, that a King of Pegu, hearing that a King of Siam had a pair of these valuable animals, sent a formal embassy, desiring his Royal brother to sell him one, and name his own price. The Peguan Soversign being refused, declared immediate war, to chastise the insult. Burning with revenge, he invaded Siam, and after sustaining a loss of 500,000 men, he made himself master of the elephant, and retrieved his honour!

AMERICAN MARRIAGE.

The marriage of a Mr. Williams, aged nearly eighty, to a Miss Candle, aged fourteen, has given rise to much badinage in the various prints in the Union. The humorous lines below were first published in the *Berkshire American*:

Whate'er is old on Hymen's stage,
The wags in rhyme will twist it,
Whether in courtship, name, or age,
The married ones have miss'd it.
But e'en though witlings make a route,
And whims severely handle,
When life's poor lamp is going out,
'Tis wise to get a *Candle*.

Poetry.

SONNET,

WRITTEN AFTER READING THE MOURNFUL STORY OF "MATILDA, A TALE OF THE DAY."

"And is there then no perfect love in this world?"

Where is thy dwelling, gentle being, say,
What Arcady has sheltered thy young years,
Unknown to sorrow, and undimmed of tears,
Where smiles, eternal, one unclouded day?
From what unheard-of region art thou come,
Who thus inquiring, makes that *real* appear
Which ne'er yet visited this lower sphere,
Existing but in worlds beyond the tomb?
Fond questioner, forbear! Earth has no love
Unblistered with a tear; and grim despair,
Remorse, and agony, the vitals tear;
And miseries, all wretchedness above,
Surround love's mortal path; his fellest darts
Buried, relentless, in the truest hearts!

Liverpool. G.

THE ORDEAL OF THE HEART.

BY MR. JAMES BIRD.

From the "Forget me Not."

Fair beam'd the morn,—the glowing wave
Blush'd as the orient god of light
Forsook its breast, and ardent gave
His smile to earthly things more bright!

Sweet was the breath of opening May;
So blithe were birds on tree and thorn,
As though they tuned their richest lay
To grace the birth of the bridal morn.

And in her bower, expectant there,
Stood Lilias—loving, lovely maid;
Sweet as the rose, though far more fair,—
And half in joy, and half afraid.

She waited for her lover, while
Her heart with passion's hope beat high;
Her blushing cheek, her timid smile,
Told that her bridal hour was nigh!

But Stanley came not, though the tongue
Of Time's old herald, from the tower
Of distant abbey, loudly rung
The signal of the promised hour.

"Soon, oh! how soon,"—thus Lilias thought,
"The truant to my arms will fly;"
She turn'd, and in her mirror caught
A glance—and blush'd, she knew not why.

He came not yet—the maiden's eye
Through flourishing shrub and blossom'd spray
Look'd anxious, while a gentle sigh
Arose to chide his long delay.

He linger'd still—he linger'd longer,—
How drear the moments fly—how slow,
With her whose doubt of man grows stronger;
Who feels no faith in aught below!

Hark!—'tis the wind that shakes the bough
Again—fair Lilias' listening ear
Smarts with delight—it catches now
The music of his footsteps near!

Oh! now in trembling hope she stood,
Turn'd from the youth her lovely face,
With frolic smile and playful mood,
To teach the loiterer better grace.

He spoke:—'twas not the voice she knew,
Rich as the mellow'd bugle's lay;
She turn'd—and lo! before her view
A Palmer in his robe of gray!

"Palmer! what brings thee here?" she cried.
"Lady! I seek thee in thy bower,—
Thou canst not be proud Stanley's bride:
Man changes with the changing hour.

"Lady! thy love is false."—"Nay; nay!
Good Palmer; tell not this to me,
Go, tell it to the heedless spray,
And the wind that rocks the restless sea!

"I heed thee not;—he must be true;
So let thy cheerless stay be brief:
His love is to my heart like dew
That falls to glad the drooping leaf!

"Palmer! farewell!"—"Stay, lady;—see,
He sends the pledge thy love once gave:
He spurns the gift, renounces thee,
Shall I tell it *now* to the restless wave?"

She took the pledge, that jewel rare,
Gaz'd on it long with tearful eye,
Then threw it, with a scornful air,
Down in the stream that murmur'd by.

"Go, Palmer, go!—but tell it not
That Lilias shed one tear for him:
Though thus estrang'd our earthly lot,
May his be bright, though mine be dim.

"And tell him not my heart is broken,
And fled my fondest, brightest dream;
Gone, like that first affection's token,
Swept away by the passing stream!"

The Palmer heard—he mutely stood,
While rush'd his blood o'er his cheek and brow:
Away! away with the cloak and hood,
And pilgrim staff!—no Palmer now!

No Palmer now, but Stanley there!
With heart that throbb'd in joy he sprung,
And to her lips so sweetly fair
His own in living rapture clung!

"Forgive me, dearest!—oh! forgive;
That thus thy changeless heart I tried—
I lov'd—must love thee, while I live!
My light, my hope, my joy,—my bride!"

THE PANACEA.

BY MARY HOWITT.

Oh! art thou worn in body? Is thy mind
Bowed earthward by despair?
Art thou cast from the heaven thy God designed,
And bound by fettering care?
Up! wipe thy watery eyes,
And cheer thy soul with gladness yet to be:
Man of immortal mind rebuke thy sighs,
I have a cure for thee.

Look round thee on the green rejoicing earth,
Look upward to the sky;
List thou all creatures, theirs the voice of mirth
Pealing glad melody;
Repose thy languid form
Among the wild flowers on the thymy hills;
Gaze on the fleeting sun and gathering storm,
Nor pine o'er thine own ills.
Oh, trembling, shrinking doubter! weak in faith,
Infirm in soul and sense;
Proud boasting man, who find'st in hour of death
Thy wisdom poor defence,
Oh! yield your spirit up;
If so pure nature may its dross transmute,
Then drink, ay drain, her unlnebriate cup,
With unforbidden fruit.

Behold and gather a new pulse from all,
From suns that set and rise,
From the free waters, headlong in their fall,
And from night's glorious skies.
All these shall heal the spirit
With the pure unction of Heaven's boundless love:
And come life's fiercest, shock your souls shall bear it,
Strong in *His* might above.

TO MISS MACNAMARA.

Oh! Mary, love, oh! what a shame
That you should treat me so:
But if you don't return my flame
I'll MAK' NA MAIR A-DO.

Liverpool. SANDY.

EPITAPH,

On an Assistant Musician, in Llanfilanthwthel Church-yard.

Under this stone lies Meredith Morgan,
Who blew the bellows of our church organ;
Tobacco he hated, to smoke most unwilling,
Yet never so pleased as when pipes he was filling;
No reflection on him for rude speech could be cast,
Though he gave our old organist many a blast.
No puffer was he,
Tho' a capital blower,
He could fill double G,
And now lies a note lower.

The Drama.

MR. SALTER.

When Mr. Salter was last in Liverpool, he was, in our opinion, most harshly and uncandidly dealt with by some of our fellow-editors, who represented him as deficient in person, voice, manner, conception of character, and, in short, every requisite for his profession. What the motive could be for passing such a sentence upon an actor of great and acknowledged merit, and a most respectable gentleman, who had been commended very highly every where else, and who was lately a great favourite, too, in Liverpool;—what the motive could be we cannot tell, but we do not scruple to pronounce the sentence to be most harsh and unfair: and it gives us great pleasure to find that Mr. Salter, against whom there appeared here to be a kind of combination, is duly estimated in Dublin.

He has already been favourably noticed in three Irish journals; but we are sorry only to have it in our power to make extracts from two, as, owing to the carelessness of an individual, the *Dublin Morning Post*, in which Mr. Salter was highly commended, has been mislaid.

Extracts from the Dublin papers.

Shakspeare's splendid play of *Hamlet* was produced last night, for the purpose of introducing Mr. Salter to the Dublin boards. He performed the very difficult character of *Hamlet* with considerable success. His face is expressive, his voice is good, and his air and manner perfectly that of a gentleman. In no part could we say there was a failure, and in some situations, and these the most effective, he evinced striking genius, and produced great effect. On the whole, we think he bids fair to be a general favourite.—*Dublin Patriot, Nov.* 7.

We have been asked our opinion of Mr. Salter, who appeared in *Hamlet* on Monday night. Having seen Kemble, and Young, and Kean, in the same character, we should pause before we decide on the performance of Mr. Salter. That he has an excellent understanding of all the great difficulties with which he is surrounded is quite clear, and that he sometimes conquers them is equally obvious: indeed, in some scenes, particularly that with *Rosencrantz* and *Guildenstern*, we thought he was particularly happy. Mr. Salter's figure is good, his manner easy, and his voice, if any thing, too deep, and, we may say, often *too loud*. Such a voice requires great art to regulate it. Mr. Salter is sometimes so high in his tones, that it is with difficulty you hear him, an objection once made to a celebrated barrister by Chief Baron Yelverton. "Why, Sir," said Yelverton, "you speak so loud I can't hear you." This is a fault easily corrected.—*Irishman.*

METEOROLOGICAL DIARY.

[From the Liverpool Courier.]

	Barometer at noon.	Extreme during Night.	Thermometer 8 morning	Extreme heat during Day.	State of the Wind at noon.	Remarks at noon.
Nov.						
1	29 52	44 0	49 0	54 0	N.W.	Cloudy.
2	29 81	39½ 0	43½ 0	49 0	N.N.W.	Fair.
3	29 90	39 0	40 0	49 0	N.W.	Fair.
4	29 84	40 0	42 0	50 0	N.W.	Fair.
5	29 77	42½ 0	44 0	49½ 0	N.W.	Fair.
6	29 64	43 0	43½ 0	48½ 0	N.N.E.	Cloudy.
7	29 84	33½ 0	40 0	46 0	N.W.	Fair.

The Housewife.

Cure for the Tooth-ache.—At a recent meeting of the London Medical Society, Dr. Blake stated that the extraction or excision of teeth was unnecessary. He was enabled, he said, to cure the most desperate cases of tooth-ache (unless the disease was connected with rheumatism), by the application of the following remedy to the diseased tooth:—"Alum, reduced to an impalpable powder, two drachms; nitrous spirit of ether, seven drachms; mix, and apply them to the tooth."—Mr. Fay, the American dentist, who was present, admitted with much candour, that in 95 cases out of 100, where surgeons and dentists are applied to for the purpose of extraction, relief might be obtained without that, or even excision. It may therefore be worth while to try the remedy prescribed by Dr. Blake, as, unlike many of the nostrums of the present day, it cannot do any harm; but it does not appear to possess the character of a specific. Mr. Fay submitted his instruments for excision and extraction to the inspection of the meeting, and he received some well-merited encomiums for the improvement which he has introduced in the practice of the dentist.

Alleged Cure for a Cough.—The following medicine for a cough has performed such extraordinary cures in private practice, that the possessor is induced to publish it for the benefit of society:—Take six ounces of Italian liquorice (that stamped Solazzi is by far the best) cut into small pieces, and put it into an earthen jar, with a quarter of a pint of the best white wine vinegar, simmer together until the liquorice is dissolved, then add two ounces of oil of almonds, and half an ounce of tincture of opium, stir the whole well together, and it is fit for use. Take two teaspoonfuls when going to bed, and the same quantity whenever the cough is troublesome in the day time.—*London Courier.*

The Porcupine Man.—The singular individual, now exhibiting in this town as the Porcupine Man, brings to our recollection an account of a similar human phenomenon described in the *Philosophical Transactions* about half a century ago. We shall give the description in our next.—Last week Sir Arthur Clarke, physician, who was on a professional visit here, called to see this man, and told him that he would undertake to cure him of the disorder free of all expense. The Porcupine Man, however, declined the offer, on the ground that he could not afford to part with his deformity, as he could not make a living by any other means than exhibiting himself.

The Beauties of Chess.

"*Ludimus effigiem belli.*"—VIDA.

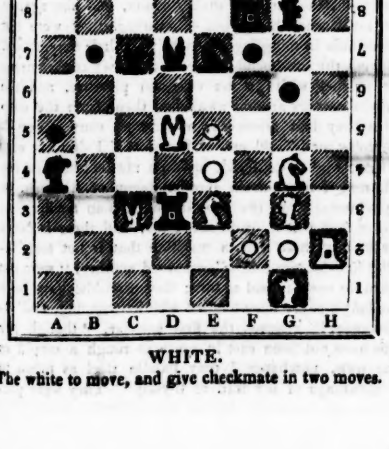
SOLUTION TO GAME CXV.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Castle.....H—7X	1 King .....G—3
2 Castle.....H—3X	2 King or Pawn H—3

And the white is stale-mated.

[NO. CXVI.]

BLACK.



WHITE.

The white to move, and give checkmate in two moves.

MR. DUNLOP'S SYSTEM OF COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

The object of this system is to give the pupil a knowledge of the general business of a merchant's office during the course of education, which is usually thought necessary to prepare him for commercial life.—In general, young men intended for business are instructed in English, Writing, Arithmetic, &c. *separately*: here they are taught *promiscuously*; or, rather, the pupil is made to go through a series of regular business, in which he is initiated in every part of the duties of a counting-house, and is taught English, Writing, and Arithmetic, in the course of his studies, and as they really occur and become necessary in the daily transactions of a merchant. According to the common method, a great deal of time is, I may say, lost by learning rules in arithmetic and many other things which never occur in business, which are scarcely ever required, and which are, therefore, in a great measure, of little or no use; or, at least, which can never prove of so much consequence as to compensate sufficiently for the time thus lost, and which might have been better employed in acquiring other knowledge which would have proved of much greater utility.

It must be observed, that it is necessary the pupils should be acquainted with the standard rules of arithmetic, and able to write legibly before they can come under the *immediate influence* of this system, which is only intended to *finish* their education and prepare them for an office, and the *teacher* of which must be a person who has had *practical experience in a merchant's office.*

I shall now proceed to take a slight view of this system. It is divided into four classes or departments: the lowest class is formed of boys who require to go through a course of instruction previous to their appointment to a situation in the next or second department, which is denominated the Custom-house, and consists of more advanced pupils having each a regular duty to attend to: the third division is composed of a number of lads still more improved, who, according to the progress they have made in their studies, hold more or less advanced situations in what is called the Bank: the fourth, or principal branch of this theory, and for the use of which it was most especially constructed, is called the Commercial department, and contains all the pupils who have regularly passed through every other class, and have been declared, on examination, equal to undertake the duties of a situation among the most advanced students.

It is not intended that in the second or third division the pupils should be taught, as their names would seem to imply, either the business of a custom-house or bank; such instruction would, of course, be quite superfluous for a person who was solely intended for a commercial concern. There is certainly the same regularity preserved with respect to the documents and books used in each as there is in the fourth department of those which are employed in a merchant's office; but this is not so much for the purpose of learning the manner of keeping accounts in a bank or custom-house, as for impressing on the mind of the pupil, by repeated examples, the nature and use of every calculation or entry he makes in the books which he is required to keep in each of the offices through which he passes, and in all of which he will have an opportunity of examining numerous commercial papers which it will be his business to write when he is permitted to enter the highest class, with the business of which he thus becomes previously acquainted; and, hence, he will not be so liable to commit errors or to spoil his books by making wrong entries, as he would were he not to undergo this previous preparation.

The pupils of the lowest class are employed in examining calculations and papers, and in copying letters, &c. for the boys in the first department. They are thus gradually taught the method of preparing mercantile documents, writing letters, and keeping books. They call over the ledgers and journals of the other scholars, and assist them in examining the correctness of their accounts. They are, according to their proficiency, advanced in rotation to the lowest situation in the custom-house, and in like manner are promoted from one office to another till they enter the chief class.

In the custom-house each boy has a particular office assigned him, and all the pupils pass through every situation in succession. They are obliged to examine, with minuteness and despatch, the entries which are passed relative to goods imported and exported by the boys of the first class, to keep their books closely and correctly posted; and, when in the situations of collector and comptroller, will be taught the method of keeping a regular set of books, including a cash account. When not engaged in the business of their offices, they are also required to write and examine different commercial papers, under the direction of the teacher.

The pupils who have been advanced to the bank are still better versed in the method of posting their books and keeping cash; are taught to examine exchanges and discounts, to make out interest accounts, and are, also, as in the lower departments, obliged to prepare various documents under the teacher's inspection.

On entering the commercial department, the pupil commences business as a general merchant. He is furnished with every book which is used in an extensive mercantile concern, and also with a number of *printed bills and tickets*, each amounting to a certain sum, and for the total amount of these he makes the *first* entry in his books, opening a *stock account* and crediting it with the capital sum on which he commences business. He is given at the same time a number of cards, containing the names of different *imaginary merchants* in different places: these are represented by the teacher, who attends, either in person or through the agency of some pupil in the lower classes under his direction, to all commands addressed by the juvenile traders to those fictitious correspondents. The pupil also receives circular letters and prices current from those foreign merchants; by means of which, on comparison with the market prices in his own country, (a list of which will be placed in a conspicuous situation, and altered agreeably to each rise and fall,) he will be enabled to judge of the limits to which he should confine them, in the purchase of any goods he may order, with respect to price, &c.

He now writes letters to one or more of these foreign merchants, giving them orders to purchase and ship, for his account, certain goods, with the usual instructions as to insurance, &c. These letters are, of course, answered, under the direction of the teacher, who may, by creating different misunderstandings between the parties, render each transaction more or less complicated. At length the invoice and bills of lading are forwarded to our young merchant, who, at the same time, lessens the amount of his stock in cash by purchasing bills, either at the bank or of some of his fellow traders, to the amount of the cargo, which he remits to the shipper; but, though he decreases the amount of cash on hand, he opens an account for goods, equal to the deficiency. The mode of payment will, of course, be varied, in different cases. He now receives a note, signed by the captain of the vessel which had been chartered for him, stating his arrival, and requesting him to have the cargo landed without delay. This he immediately prepares for, by invoicing the ship at the custom-house, writing his entries, and paying the duty on or bonding his goods; and, when these are supposed to be all landed, he clears out and discharges the vessel. During this period he carefully notes all the different expenses of insurance, duty, landing, weighing, freight, &c., for each of which he makes the proper entry in his books. Having ascertained the amount of all the charges he has paid, in addition to the invoice price of his goods, he is shown the manner of making out the prime cost; and, according to his expected profit, settles the rate at which he will sell. He then sells, in large and small parcels, all the different articles he has imported, either to some of the other scholars, or to orders from fictitious dealers, forwarded through the teacher, who refunds him, with the academic money, for all goods purchased through his agency. Sometimes the payments are made by acceptances, promissory notes, endorsements, &c., all the various modes of managing sales being brought forward for the information of the pupil.

Each of these young merchants will generally have on hands three or four different cargoes at one time; the business being rendered more intricate as the pupil advances in mercantile knowledge. He is also instructed in the different kinds of commission business; occasionally selling goods, at a stated factorage, for his foreign correspondents, and also purchasing home produce for their account and exporting it to their address. He likewise sends consignments of different foreign and native articles of merchandise, to be sold abroad for his own account and risk.

Numerous difficulties which happen in real business are made to take place among these novices in trade, such as bankruptcies among the foreign merchants with whom they correspond, losses and partial damage of vessels consigned to them, seizures at the custom-house from incorrect reporting of cargoes, and various other things which daily occur in the commercial world. In all these cases, they are taught the method of recovering from debtors, underwriters, &c. and also the different ways of settling disputed transactions by arbitration and otherwise. They keep accounts with the bank; make lodgments of money and put in bills to be discounted; drawing out their credit by means of checks, according to the demand they may have for cash, either to pay for goods or bills of exchange for remittances.

In fact, every circumstance which takes place in a merchant's office is laid before the pupil, and from the re-

peated practice he will have on every circumstance which occurs, it must make an impression on his mind which could never be done by any other system. He has no printed books to refer to; he has nothing but the strength of his own memory to direct him; and when this fails he applies to his teacher, who gives him the information he desires. He must be perfect in book-keeping; he is not taught it by copying from any author; his own experience is his guide, and certainly there never was a better. English and composition he is perfected in by writing letters on business, the errors in which are always pointed out and corrected by the teacher. He has continual practice in writing, and by the care which will be taken to make him attentive to neatness and accuracy, he will be prevented from getting into that bad habit which many do on leaving school and going into an office, of writing an illegible scrawl, because they have been informed by some who have fallen into the same error, that too much accuracy in writing is not business like: certainly nothing can be more ridiculous than this, and yet, how many have adopted it! He has an opportunity of practising every useful part of arithmetic in his daily transactions, he observes the use of each rule and how it is applied, and must be correct, since all his calculations will be examined by the boys in the lower classes. The measuring of bales, timber, &c. and gauging of liquids, he is taught from measurements supposed to have been taken from the articles; and the method of taking these dimensions will be exhibited by miniature models. That he may be still better informed, all those parts of English, arithmetic, mensuration, &c. which do not occur in the course of his practice, will be explained in lectures at another period from that of general business. He will attend 'Change thrice each week, for the purpose of purchasing and disposing of bills of exchange, and transacting other business with his compeers in trade.

In short, every part of the actual labour of a merchant which can be taught in a school will, by this system, be made known to the pupil; and hence, when he enters upon the real scene of life and business, he will meet scarcely any thing with which he has not been wholly or partially acquainted before; indeed, I may say, the only difference will be, that he will have before his eyes those goods which, when at school, he knew every thing about except that of merely passing them through his hands; and even this he will not be entirely ignorant of, as he will have an opportunity of examining samples of almost every article of commerce and comparing the different qualities of each.

Lectures on history with geographical descriptions of the country, and remarks on the different articles of traffic produced in it, will be read to the pupils at hours separate from the time of general attendance. These discourses must certainly prove of essential service to the students when settled in business. They will be made acquainted with the history of every description of goods, their nature, manufacture, the countries from which they are usually imported, and their use to the world; each description being illustrated with a specimen of the article for the better information of the pupil. In these lectures will be introduced a history of the origin, progress, and present state of commerce.

Tales, Romances, &c.

THE BETROTHED,

OR THE BLOOD-STAINED DAGGER.

A Romance, in Twelve Chapters, by W. R. of Manchester.

[*Continued from page* 135.]

CHAPTER VII.

There's a chain of causes
Linked to effects; invincible necessity
That whate'er is, could not but so have been;
That's my security. NAT. LEE.

When Lavigne had ascended the flight of stone steps which led to the watch-tower, upon viewing the loveliness and beauty which was spread around him, he became divested of that fearful anxiety which had pervaded his mind before his recent interview with Rodolph. The castle overlooked the beautiful and picturesque scenery of the Rhine; and the waves, as they laved the base of the rock upon which the castle was founded, were tinged with the silvery radience of the moon, which was shining with a brilliance and splendour uninterrupted by one solitary cloud; and where the waters lay sullen and calm, occasioned by their depth, the stars were reflected in countless myriads, like a brilliant tiara of diamonds upon the raven black hair of a lovely woman.

Lavigne was one of those beings who imagine that a complicated chain of circumstances connect the multifarious events of a man's existence, finally tending to, and terminating in, one grand event. Upon this theory his actions were founded; and he was never known to deviate once from the path he had marked out for his conduct through life: he bore the greatest misfortunes and disappointments with calmness and resignation, always considering that it would ultimately terminate in a felicitous manner, and was only a taste of bitterness to give the draught of joy a purer and better zest.

The silver moonlight fell upon his brow as he gazed upon the everlasting and beauteous sky, and his silvery hairs were tinged with a brighter lustre, that gave him a perfect resemblance of the patriarchs of old. He counted the deep and solemn strokes of the turret clock each hour, as time winged his silent and undeviating flight towards the hour that he must appear before Rodolph. By his untiring and unwearied perseverance he, at length, discovered the object of his search amidst a brilliant constellation, and his heart beat with unspeakable rapture when he beheld its appearance was propitious to his master's wishes. He sat down to contemplate the variety of objects and pursuits which engross the attention of the whole race of intellectual beings, and gave himself up to the endless and many reflection, that whatever object man might pursue, he would find it a visionary shadow.—"Some," said he, "whose intellectual capacity is capacious, suffer the imagination, in its excursive wanderings, to roam almost beyond their comprehension: others there are whose sphere of knowledge is more contracted, and who are content to amuse themselves with the things that, in reality, exist around them. Strange it is that man has not the power to govern his own will; but that he must be tossed to and fro, a shattered bark, upon the waters of necessity."—He was disturbed from his reflections by the deep and full-toned bell beating the hour at which he was to descend to Rodolph; and the echoes, as they reverberated from the rocks which overhung the river, had a solemn and heavy sound. He counted the hour as each stroke gave a distinct and clear sound, and prepared to descend the long and laborious flight of steps with a heart much lighter than when he had ascended them.

Having reached the bottom, he carefully opened the door; the apartment was still and death-like, and the taper was nearly burnt out, so that the objects in the room were to be seen but indistinctly. Lavigne, not observing Rodolph in the apartment, concluded that he had been wearied with watching, and had retired to rest. He retrimmed the taper, and was proceeding to leave the room, to seek his dormitory, when he observed the apparently lifeless body of his master extended upon the floor: he shrunk back with amazement and horror, and his fears were considerably augmented when he discovered the dagger of Rodolph clenched fast in his hand. His first conclusion was, that Rodolph, exasperated at finding that all his efforts to obtain riches and power proved fruitless, had been hurried, in the heat of a maddening phrenzy, to commit suicide.

When the first emotions of fear had subsided in the bosom of Lavigne, he approached the body, to discover if the spark of life was entirely extinct. The cold, clammy dew of death lay thick upon his forehead; his eye was dilated and fixed; his muscles were distended and contorted; and there still was upon his ghastly countenance the expression of determined revenge; but there appeared no mark of external violence upon the features.

At this moment the Baron de Holstein arrived, having been detained by some unforeseen occurrence from visiting Rodolph at a much earlier hour. Entering at this critical juncture, he instinctively shrunk back, the blood chilling in his veins, and then rushing to his brain with an impetuosity almost sufficient to dethrone reason, when he observed Lavigne bent over the prostrate body of Rodolph, and a dagger smeared with blood in the hand of the latter. "Jesu Maria shield us!" said the Baron, as he advanced; "what untoward event hath occurred?" Lavigne then related the injunction of Rodolph to return from the watch-tower at the hour of twelve, and his subsequent discovery of the body, as it then lay. No wounds appearing upon the body, the Baron entertained sanguine hopes that animation was merely suspended, but might, by proper and prompt measures, be restored; and immediately proceeded to use such restoratives as he deemed most proper. Their attempts were for a considerable time ineffectual, but at length their labour was rewarded by the signs of returning life. It was evident he had fallen into a swoon; but the antecedent circumstances they were unable to conjecture. So soon as animation was in the least degree restored, they bore him to his dormitory, and having carefully laid him upon a couch, Lavigne was appointed to watch over his slumbers, and, if any unfavourable change took place, to report it to the Baron, who retired to the Mysterious Chamber, to transact and arrange plans to prevent Reginald from eluding their pursuit.

The Baron had, early in the morning, gone out in quest of Reginald, and had obtained information of the route he was about to pursue the next day. De Holstein had returned to the castle, with a view that Rodolph might accompany him immediately, to intercept Reginald; but, upon arriving at the castle, owing to the unfortunate disaster which had occurred, he was necessitated to adopt a very different measure from the one he had intended. Under these circumstances he left Lavigne to watch Rodolph, whilst he went to despatch some mercenary hirelings, such as are constantly in the pay of the Italian noble, to surprise by stratagem, and bring to their retainer, Reginald Gonzague. He then gave them such instructions as were necessary, directing each to provide himself with an arquebuss and stiletto, and, in case of a desperate resistance from Reginald, to have recourse to their weapons; but upon such conditions only. They soon were prepared for their departure; and the horses' hoofs were heard to ring loudly in the castle-yard as the warder opened the massy gates, and they sallied forth on their mission.

CHAPTER VIII.

"These be men fitted for midnight murders."—*Old Play.*

It was a lovely morning, the stars had already begun to wane, and the faint streak of light that appeared in the east betokened that the dawn of day was fast approaching. The road which the horsemen had to traverse lay across the country, through deep and winding defiles, and the path being rough and broken, they pursued their way with great circumspection, and in solitary silence, except when some of the horses stumbled, which was not of rare occurrence, that the rider muttered a curse on the unevenness of the path, the cause of their mission, and also against their lord, who, being out of hearing, they were not ceremonious in mingling his name with their execrations. At length the sun began to rise, so that they could pursue their journey with greater ease and pleasure, and the exquisite scenery around awakened them from the deep silence they had preserved, at least in conversation.—"Beshrew me!" said one of them, "if I do meet with this same wight, Reginald, an' I do not let him taste my steel, may I never drain another flagon of Rhenish, or sip the nectar from the ruby lips of woman again; that last jolt had nearly dismounted me, and there is not a bone in my whole human machine that is not sore."—"Thy fine delicate limbs," answered another, "were not formed for such a road as this; thou shouldst have been some lady's page, have fondled with her lap-dog, and"—"Braggart!" retorted the first speaker, "though my limbs have not been cast in quite so rough a mould as thine own, perchance I may handle steel as much to the advantage of my lord as thyself." They were pro-

ceeding to bandy vituperation, when they were stopped by one whose appearance indicated him to be their leader; for they observed immediate silence as soon as he addressed the first speaker, casting a look upon him that caused him to shrink beneath so penetrating and sullen a scowl.

Having missed the track Reginald had pursued, they wandered about in search of him for two days; and on the third were returning, when they fell in with De Comines and De Holstein, who also had been unsuccessful in their pursuit, except having met Reginald and Leonora upon the pass. They met at a part of the road that formed a junction in four opposite directions; and De Holstein proposed, as the best means of preventing Reginald from escaping, that they should diverge, himself and De Comines taking the road to Florence, and the retainers the one to Genoa; with which proposition the whole party immediately coincided, and they each took the road assigned.

The day had continued as it had began, in one uninterrupted splendour and sunshine, until now; the clouds began to lower, the thunder rolled rapidly at a distance, and the horsemen deemed it prudent to seek the nearest place which might promise to afford them shelter. The storm coming upon them rather sooner than they anticipated, they hurried to shelter themselves in what appeared to be a copse, but which, when they arrived at it, proved to be a quantity of brushwood, that covered the mouth of a large cavern. Nothing could have presented itself more opportunely, and they hastily dismounted to enter. The one who entered first was their leader, and he soon perceived the cavern was previously occupied; but his astonishment and surprise were excited in the highest degree when he observed, that its prior occupants were the fugitives of whom he and his party were in pursuit.

"What, ho!" cried he, addressing the person whom he saw in a menacing attitude, at the upper end of the cavern, "an' I be not mistaken, thou art Reginald Gonzague?" He paused as if waiting for an answer, but the profoundest silence ensued; when he resumed,—"Reginald Gonzague! as thou settest a value upon the life of thy fair protegé, I charge thee to surrender!" The only answer was the flash and sound of a pistol, succeeded by a heart-rending groan, which told that the shot had taken its intended effect. "Spare him not!" iterated their leader, probably afraid that another shot from the same quarter might break the thread of his own existence; and instantly the sound of three arquebusses echoed through the cavern, and all was again still as the chambers of death. Another death-dealing shot from the upper end of the cavern, followed by a deep groan, which indicated that the sufferer poured forth his whole soul in that agonizing groan, was the signal for retreat to the mouth of the cavern.

The smoke issued forth in dense thick volumes; and when the party came to the light, they discovered that their force, which had hitherto consisted of five, was now diminished to three. Meanwhile Reginald, who had screened himself from the fire of his antagonists, by a projecting rock, reloaded his fire-arms; and having missed Leonora from his side, concluded that, during the confusion, she had been captured by his opponents; and he, with a pistol in each hand, prepared to rescue her. Rushing out of the cavern, his assailants burst upon him so abruptly, that he discharged his pistols at random, and neither of the shots took effect. A violent struggle ensued; but as they pounced upon their prey instantly, stabbing him with their stilettos, he was soon overpowered: nevertheless, he was once upon the point of plunging his dagger into the heart of one of them, when it was wrested from his hand by another.

The first idea of Reginald was, that they were about to assassinate him; but he was agreeably disappointed when he observed they were merely about to pinion him: after which, they bound him across the steed of one of the men whom he had sacrificed. For what fate he was reserved, was uncertain; indeed, that thought occupied his mind scarcely a moment,—the sudden and mysterious manner in which Leonora had disappeared from his side was the subject of his present cogitations, and he fondly dwelt on the hope that his antagonists would say something which might elucidate that event; but not a word escaped their lips, tending to throw the least light upon the subject of his anxieties. After they had bound him upon the horse, they returned into the cavern, and remained a considerable time; but the cause of their detention he was unable to conjecture, unless it was to pay the funeral obsequies to their departed comrades, or to seek Leonora: the latter seemed the most plausible; and his breast was racked and tortured by a thousand imaginings. Once he thought he heard her scream, and he listened with breathless awe, but the dead silence was only broken by the throbbing and beating of his own heart.

When they returned to him, they mounted their steeds and rode away at a quick pace; and from the unpleasant situation in which Reginald was bound, he felt sick and weary; added to which, the loss of blood from the stabs of their stilettos, and the cords with which he was bound having worked through his skin, the blood trickled from his wounds, and he was faint. During this time not a groan escaped his lips, nor did he give utterance to one word of complaint.

Still the hope lived within him that he might learn something of the fate of Leonora from the conversation of his companions; but from the quick pace at which they travelled, the unevenness of the road they were traversing, which lay through the defiles before spoken of, and the uncomfortableness of his situation, he was only able, at intervals, to hear single sentences, which, so far from containing any information relative to Leonora, consisted of nothing but invectives against himself. In this manner they travelled on the whole of the way until they arrived at the castle, by which time Reginald had become insensible from the loss of blood.

Correspondence.

NEW MUSICAL NOTATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I am satisfied that, in the judgment of such of your readers as have perused my replies, I stand acquitted of the accusation of "having taken a peep" into Mr. Dibdin's work—an accusation the more grievous, inasmuch as the production which has given rise to it was submitted to the inspection and decision of the musical world, under the impression that common letter-press had never before been applied to the purpose of musical notation. Had "The English Pythagoras," or any other performance executed upon similar principles met my eye in due time, possibly "The Notation of Music simplified" would never have been obtruded upon the notice of the public. As it has happened, both performances are before them, and the impartial will decide upon their comparative merits; it becomes not me, nor is an interested party qualified, to pronounce an opinion.

"——If no basis bear my rising name,
But the fallen ruins of another's fame,
Then teach me, Heaven! to scorn the guilty bays;
Drive from my breast that wretched lust of praise.
Unblemished let me live, or die unknown:
Oh! grant me honest fame, or grant me none."

I may, however, be permitted to adduce, in reference to my notation, the disinterested testimony of an authority whose splendid professional talents give her *ipse dixit* an ascendancy in the musical world that is not likely to be affected by the cynical cavils of ordinary critics:—"Miss STEPHENS is happy in being enabled to express her entire approbation of Mr. Macdonald's work on 'The Notation of Music,' as affording the means of readily publishing the music with a selection of songs, in a very small compass, and thereby greatly facilitating the acquirement of the air along with the words." I have done with the subject of *utility*, to which, had your comments been confined, your solitary opinion would have passed unheeded, but the charge which they embodied was too serious not to be indignantly repelled.

You will pardon me, Sir, when I assure you that I do not conceive that an editor is in the discharge of his duty, when he obtrudes upon the notice of his readers a performance that appears to him "to possess but little claim either to originality or to utility." Be the utility of my production what it may, it is abundantly evident that you have turned it to account in ushering "the *really* new system' of Mr. Yelverton into notice. In my last letter, I begged to be informed whether that gentleman had seen my tract upon the subject previous to the publication of his system; but you have not been pleased to solve the question. Luckily, however, your solution is unnecessary: the fact that he had seen it, may be easily gathered from your own comments and the communications of the gentleman himself. "I wish to speak with becoming respect of the inventions of every man;" but I should be singularly deficient in duty to myself, were I to suffer the invidious and extraordinary comparison into which my notation has been brought, to pass without animadversion.

When it is considered that the materials which compose Mr. Dibdin's notation and mine are in common, the paucity of coincidences between them is truly remarkable. Of the three symbols which are applied to similar purposes in both systems, two are applied to the same purposes in Mr. Yelverton's, notwithstanding the widely different principles upon which it proceeds;—besides, the symbol employed in my system to mark a natural is so employed in this "*entirely* original system!" and, what adds to the curiosity of the coincidence, is the novelty of the symbol itself—perhaps but few of your readers have met with it before. The remaining coincidence between Mr. Dibdin's system and mine is so natural, that, as I observed before in reference to it, let twenty individuals be set about finding a substitute for the stave from among the typographical symbols in ordinary use, and possibly not one will employ another than the letters of the gamut. Thus, the three coincidences between your favourite system and the one which has been so obnoxious to you, are, in no ordinary degree, more inexplicable than are the three coincidences between this system and Mr. Dibdin's. Of the latter systems, the one (with these three exceptions, if you will) possesses the same claim to "the rare merit of entire originality" that the other does; whilst the former, notwithstanding its vaunted originality *in totum*, is neither more nor less than the system in every-day use, subjected to a few alterations: if we strip it of its borrowed plumes, this "*entire* invention," "as it is termed," resolves itself simply into the musical *measure* and the subdivision of the bars, unless, peradventure, the substitution of black for white, and white for black, forms a part of the invention. These are stubborn facts; yet it is *possible* Mr. Yelverton may not be a plagiarist.

I shall not copy your example so far as to decry the *utility* of Mr. Yelverton's notation, although I do not see what advantages are to accrue from its adoption, whether it is meant to supplant the notation which at present obtains, or whether it is more moderate in its pretensions. I shall, however, take the liberty of pointing out some of its defects, and making a few suggestions towards its improvement. This musical *measure* is, like the "ladder," exceedingly fallacious. In the few bars which you have adduced, in illustration of the system, there are no fewer than eleven instances in proof of the averment. When two or more notes occur in succession, upon a given *step* or space, it is necessary to *cabbage* a little from each note, in order to show that they are different notes. If you will only consult the specimen, and compare the second note in the second bar of the bass with the corresponding note in the air, you will find that it is minus nearly a third of its *standard* length: it is not more than a fourth of the note immediately preceding it, whereas its due proportion is precisely a third. Moreover, "such parts of the bars as are left wholly unoccupied" are to be considered as rests; consequently, if we may depend upon the accuracy of your "graphic and philosophical" specimen, there are four rests in the first three bars of "God save the King!"

Mr. Yelverton declares (and he may be perfectly right) that the stave "admits of no improvement;" but, upon "graphic and philosophical" principles, to which I should, perhaps, add the epithet "picturesque," the improvement of which the stave admits is very great. The "musical ladder," as I before observed, is exceedingly fallacious; but, if the width of the several spaces which compose it were proportioned to the *step* to be taken at each, and if the extreme spaces in the bass portion, and the second space in the treble, were subdivided into four minor spaces, and the remaining spaces into three, after the manner of the bars, *strangers* would be preserved from many a stumble in ascending and descending it; the use of flats, sharps, and naturals, would be effectually superseded; and the stave might then, with the strictest propriety, be denominated A "MUSICAL LADDER." Adieu.

ALEXANDER MACDONALD.

Hill-place, Stirling-road, Glasgow, Oct. 30, 1826.

DISINTERMENT OF THE DEAD FOR SURGICAL PURPOSES.

The writer of the following letter had certainly "supped full of horrors" when he sat down to communicate with us. His picture, which was forcible and terrific as it came from his hand, may have lost something of its effect by the editorial operation it has undergone; but that operation was indispensible, according to our ideas of delicacy and decorum.—*Edit. Kal.*

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—My astonishment has been excited to a considerable degree by a person, signing his name *Edgar*, attempting to advocate the disinterment of the dead, for the purposes of anatomical operations being performed upon them. *Edgar* writes with the greatest *sang froid* upon a subject, which, in itself, is most awful; and he must have thought lightly upon it, or he would have been a little more decorous.

Human nature must indeed be depraved, when a man can contemplate with pleasure the certainty, that when his body shall be "gathered to the home of his fathers," it shall be torn from the grave by some sacrilegious hand at midnight, thrust into a sack, conveyed to a surgeon's, and then be slashed and mangled in a manner too disgusting to relate.

I have little doubt that *Edgar* has a father, mother, sister, and brother, and doubtless there is some *inamorata* in existence to whom he pays his *devoirs*, unless we may judge from his stoicism and coldness of soul, which would lead me to conclude that all the loveliness and beauty of the female part of the creation have no charms for him.

Was *Edgar* ever present at a dissection? If not, let him imagine himself about to witness one, and let the first subject be his father, the man whose blood is running within his veins, and of whose elements his being is compounded. Let the next subject be his mother; let him see the operator's knife laying open the womb that bore him, and the breast that nourished him; let him see the eyes bored out that have so anxiously watched over his slumbers many a sleepless night, when disease tortured his feeble frame; let him see the tongue slashed to pieces which has so often blessed him, and that taught him his first lisping accents; and when that disgusting scene is passed, let his sister and his brother be successively brought and mangled before his eyes; and lastly, to complete the picture of horror, let the beautiful form he adored be brought forth, the form once dearer to him than his own existence, whose being he once fondly imagined might be blended with his own. Then let him be told, that all this is subservient to the furtherance of a science, to which he *may probably sometime* be indebted for his life:—will he not turn away, shuddering with disgust and horror, and exclaim, "Rather would I perish than be the witness of so appalling a spectacle?"

When he has answered these questions, I doubt not but that I shall be able to adduce some arguments, which, with the aid of all his flowery and embellished rhetoric, he will not be able to overthrow. PAUL PRY.

P.S.—Why does the powerful pen of *The Lounger* slumber when the great cause of decency and humanity is the question, and when their adherents require a leader, under whose banner they may marshal their numbers?

LIVERPOOL SHOPMEN.

"A blow from such a hand!—I war not with the dust."

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Your correspondent *W.*, who I strongly suspect to be no less a personage than my little friend, to whom I alluded in my former letter, is grossly mistaken if he supposes I have any "personal revenge" to gratify by the notice I condescended to take of him and his fraternity, and I would recommend him not to let his passion again get so far the upper hand of his prudence as to repeat his determination, in coalition with his brethren of the yard, *not to alter their conduct*, nor to be so silly as to suppose that *impertinence and rudeness* can ever be mistaken for *uprightness and independence:* such assertions are in that true spirit of *pert vulgarity*, that shows so strongly the shop in every line of his production.

It would be wasting the time of your readers, and occupy a space which you can fill with more valuable matter, were I to enter farther on this idle subject; but I am not sorry to learn that my observations have been felt where it was intended they should apply, though I must confess I would rather see some of those gentry in a corporal or sergeant's coat, than measuring slips and shreds, an occupation more adapted to the other sex.

My friend Lydia informs me of a visible improvement that has already taken place. She says she has lately been shopping, and has had her change returned to her *wrapped up in paper*, which, before her complaint appeared, was a piece of politeness very partially, indeed, attended to. Let us hope for further improvement in these little essentials. It is "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

Yours, &c. THE OBSERVER.

I have several letters from "old maids," and beg little *W.* to keep out of their way; or rather be very civil to them, or woe betide him.

GRAMMATICAL QUERY.

Our Wigan correspondent, from whose letter we subjoin an extract, will perceive that we have omitted a part of his communication. It contained what we conceived to be a sneer at certain modern improvements which we hold in high esteem.—*Edit. Kal.*

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have a question to put to your learned readers.—My friend, Mr. B., has posted the following notice in his shop:—"On sale, a collection of gold and silver coin, some of which is curious and rare." Some of the the Wigan *Savans* contend that the word coin should be in the plural number, and that *some* requires a plural verb. Another contends that coin is right, but that for *is* we must read *are;* thus making the *whole* to be singular, and a *part* plural. My friend will be very sorry if it should turn out, that, in composing this notice, he has really broken Prisian's head; and I appeal to your grammatical correspondents, and beg that some of them will favour us with a decision on the subject. We should be glad to hear from Mr. Macgowan.

While I am on the subject of grammar, permit me to record my protest against the prevailing vulgar error of using the verb *bet* as irregular, making no distinction between the past and the present tense. For instance, the jockey and the dandy say, "Yesterday I bet you a bottle of wine." How ridiculous!—Yours, &c. W. A.

Wigan, October 25, 1826.

Lunar Eclipse.—The approaching eclipse of the moon this evening (Tuesday) the 14th instant, will be very interesting, if the evening prove clear; as the eastern limits of the moon will emerge from the shadow so early as five o'clock, and will soon after present, on that side, the imposing appearance of a rim of gold on a globe of ebony.

A Comet.—On the evening of the 1st instant, M. Nicollet, being occupied in examining the comet, was able to perceive across some gleams of light, that, since the first days of its appearance, it had augmented sufficiently in in size and brightness to become visible to the naked eye. Its nucleus presents a thick nebulosity, accompanied by a tail several degrees in length. Its right ascension augments about a degree a day, and its Boreal declension diminishes about one degree and a quarter in the same time. The public may easily distinguish it in the north-west region of the sky, when the evenings are fine.—*Paris paper.*

To Correspondents.

MUSICAL NOTATION.—We shall probably in the next *Mercury* make a short extract from the letter of Mr. Macdonald, which is to be found in a preceding page. Our only reason for not giving the whole of this gentleman's correspondence in that journal is want of room. We cannot devote the requisite space to one subject. We trust Mr. Macdonald has now brought his defence to an end. There is an air of dictation and petulance in his replies, that would have gone far towards the exclusion of his letters, if we had not preferred fair play to personal considerations. He is extremely angry because we do not happen to regard his plan in the same favourable light in which he views it. Neither does he state the case fairly. He talks of our having accused him of having taken a peep into Mr. Dibdin's work. We did no such thing. These are our words:—"We cannot banish the persuasion that Mr. Macdonald has taken a peep into it" (Mr. Dibdin's work.) This was our opinion before we had Mr. Macdonald's assurance that he had never seen Mr. Dibdin's work. With that assurance we are perfectly satisfied. Mr. Macdonald says, "I do not conceive that an editor is in the discharge of his duty when he obtrudes upon the notice of his readers a performance that appears to him 'to possess but little claim either to originality or to utility.'" Our opinion of the duties of an editor are the very reverse of Mr. Macdonald's. Does that gentleman mean to say that we are to be silent except we can approve of any work which is offered to the public? If this were the rule, there would be very little use in criticism, one purpose of which, and the principal one too, is to point out defects with a view to their amendment. We shall always assert this right of commenting freely on every published work; and as for the charge of obtruding our opinion, it is quite misplaced in this instance; as Mr. Macdonald's treatise was sent us for the express purpose of comment. His letter of this week is in a great degree addressed to Mr. Yelverton; but we are confident that that gentleman possesses too much candour and good sense to feel any offence at the strictures. In conclusion, while we avow our belief that Mr. Macdonald is the original inventor of his system of musical notation, we repeat our conviction, that, although for certain purposes, which we have pointed out, it may be useful, neither it nor Dibdin's mode, nor any other which we have met with, will ever supersede that in present in use. They are all, in our opinion, "retrograde movements in the fine arts."

RESURRECTION MEN AND DISSECTION FOR SURGICAL PURPOSES.—The letter of *Pax* must be deferred until next week. One reason of its postponement is, the indistinctness of the hand-writing, which will render it so tedious to the compositor that we must give him ample time to decipher it.—The letter of *Observer* on the same subject is reserved for next week; and when our correspondents have concluded the controversy it is our intention to close the investigation with the able paper which appeared upwards of two years ago in the *Westminster Review*. We shall require a clear stage for the purpose, as the subject occupies about forty pages of the review.

SUICIDE.—If *J. H. S.* should happen to see this paragraph, he is informed that we have a private communication for him, which must be delivered to himself alone. We shall be in attendance for the purpose every day, about noon, at the office.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—We beg to direct the particular attention of our readers to an interesting article on this subject in a preceding page.

CHESS.—The answer to the first query of *W. H.* is very simple. The game is terminated when his queen gives the check at F 3. It is check-mate because the king cannot move out of check; nor can he take the queen, because in so doing he would put himself into check, which is contrary to the fundamental rule of the game. With regard to the second query, we must take a little time to consider before we can determine the point. Probably in our next we may decide the matter.

PHRENOLOGY.—We have in reserve, for our next, an original paper upon this subject, which was lately read to a scientific society in this town.

AUTOGRAPHS.—We will endeavour to comply with the request of our correspondent *W. R.* of Manchester.

CANT.—The letter of *Observer* is written in such a scampering hand, that we cannot decipher certain parts. We will, however, make another effort.

The paper of *Amicus Justitiæ (J. F.)* will not suit our publication.

KIRKDALE IN DARKNESS.—The letter of *J. C. S.*, intended for this week's *Kaleidoscope*, shall, if possible, have a place in the *Mercury* of Friday next.

We have further to acknowledge *C. H.*—*J. H. R.*—*M. W.*

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